

News From the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2016.06.01

Our June meeting took place on June 1, 2016 at 7pm. The Melrude firehall renovations and newly poured apron have been completed. The engine, tanker, and Rescue 3 are all back in their snug bays awaiting their call to service. With all of the recent wet weather, grass and wildland fire danger is low. We still must be careful with campfires and other recreational fires. Wind can change the course of a fire quickly. Please make sure that recreational fires are extinguished completely before leaving the area as they have been known to reignite several hours later when conditions are favorable. Keep a bucket of water nearby to make sure your campfire remains an enjoyable event.

Our department is now stocked with several "burn kits". These kits contain dressings and gels designed to soothe and keep burned skin moist. Burns caused by heat, such as from fires or sunburn, need to be cooled down immediately. Please do not put butter or grease on a burn. This will only seal the heat in the skin, allowing it to cause further damage. Cool the burn by placing the area in cool water or placing a water soaked towel on the area. Do not break blisters because infection can set in. Any burn that develops blisters should be evaluated by a doctor. If clothing or other material has been melted onto the skin, do not pull it off. This is a serious condition and 911 must be called.

Enjoying the lakes and waterways in our area is what summer is all about. Make a safety plan before you venture on or near the water. This is especially important when children are involved. Anyone can get thrown off of a boat or dock unexpectedly. The first impulse is usually to jump in and assist the victim. However, many a rescuer has become a victim because of this. Panic over-rides all reason. Remember: REACH, THROW, ROW, GO. First, reach something out to the victim that you can pull them in with. This could be a paddle, stick, broom... Check your boats and identify what you can use if the situation arises. Second, identify something that you can throw out to the victim that he can hold onto. This can be a styrofoam ring, rope, plastic milk jug, styrofoam cooler, or even a spare tire. If you can't reach the victim or throw something out to him, row a small boat, canoe, or kayak. Let the victim hang onto the boat and bring him to shore. Getting into the boat may cause it to capsize. As a last resort, you may have to enter the water and swim to the victim. Make sure you have a lifejacket on as the victim may panic and push you under the water. If you identify beforehand what you can use in an emergency, you will save time and be prepared if something happens. Safety is #1.

Some of our department members attended a training session that included a technique for removing a fish hook from your finger, arm, or leg. It is called the String Yank Technique. I am passing this information on to all who fish. This technique actually works. I used it on my son when he got a fish hook stuck in his hand. Practice with a fish hook in an orange. Do not try to remove a hook that is stuck deep, in a joint or tendon, or near an eye or artery. Do not cut the hook or attempt to push it through as this can cause further injury and infection. When in doubt, call 911.

The EVFD will hold an open house at the Melrude firehall on July 2. This will coincide with the annual Melrude parade and picnic from 12-2pm. If you are coming to the festivities, stop by and say hello!

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD